

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A zipper pull mechanism with an integrated whistle comprising:

a whistle body defining a front end, a back end, and an upper surface, the whistle body further including a first aperture and a second aperture; and

~~an outer frame positioned over the whistle body in such a manner so as to allow a zipper ending to be secured to the zipper pull mechanism,~~ the outer frame further including an opening such that when the outer frame is positioned over the whistle body, the opening in the outer frame is aligned with the second aperture of the whistle body so that when air is passed through the first aperture in the whistle body, the air is allowed to continue to pass through the second aperture of the whistle body and the opening in the outer frame to thereby create a loud, piercing noise, wherein the first aperture in the whistle body extends through the front end of the whistle body, and the second aperture in the whistle body extends through the upper surface of the whistle body; and

an attachment device having a first free end and a second free end such that the free ends of the attachment device are captured between the whistle body and the outer frame in a manner that allows the attachment device to include a looped portion outside the whistle body and the outer frame that is adapted for attachment to a zipper member.

3. (Previously Presented) A zipper pull mechanism with an integrated whistle comprising:

a whistle body defining a front end, a back end, and an upper surface, the whistle body further including a first aperture and a second aperture; and

an outer frame positioned over the whistle body in such a manner so as to allow a zipper ending to be secured to the zipper pull mechanism, the outer frame further including an opening such that when the outer frame is positioned over the whistle body,

the opening in the outer frame is aligned with the second aperture of the whistle body so that when air is passed through the first aperture in the whistle body, the air is allowed to continue to pass through the second aperture of the whistle body and the opening in the outer frame to thereby create a loud, piercing noise, wherein the back end of the whistle body is open and a cap is further provided and adapted to be attached to the back end of the whistle body so as to close the back end of the whistle body.

4. (Original) The zipper pull mechanism as set forth in claim 3, wherein the cap is a removable cap.

5. (Previously Presented) A zipper pull mechanism with an integrated whistle comprising:

a whistle body defining a front end, a back end, and an upper surface, the whistle body further including a first aperture and a second aperture; and

an outer frame positioned over the whistle body in such a manner so as to allow a zipper ending to be secured to the zipper pull mechanism, the outer frame further including an opening such that when the outer frame is positioned over the whistle body, the opening in the outer frame is aligned with the second aperture of the whistle body so that when air is passed through the first aperture in the whistle body, the air is allowed to continue to pass through the second aperture of the whistle body and the opening in the outer frame to thereby create a loud, piercing noise, wherein the outer frame defines a concave shaped top surface wall, the opening in the outer frame being positioned within the concave shaped top surface wall.

6. (Original) The zipper pull mechanism as set forth in claim 5, wherein the concave shaped surface wall further includes at least one gripping element.

7. (Previously Presented) A zipper pull mechanism with an integrated whistle comprising:

a whistle body defining a front end, a back end, and an upper surface, the whistle body further including a first aperture and a second aperture; and

an outer frame positioned over the whistle body in such a manner so as to allow a zipper ending to be secured to the zipper pull mechanism, the outer frame further including an opening such that when the outer frame is positioned over the whistle body, the opening in the outer frame is aligned with the second aperture of the whistle body so that when air is passed through the first aperture in the whistle body, the air is allowed to continue to pass through the second aperture of the whistle body and the opening in the outer frame to thereby create a loud, piercing noise, wherein the whistle body further defines a bottom surface, the bottom surface includes a hole for permitting the escape of fluid out through the bottom surface of the whistle body.

8. (Currently Amended) A zipper pull mechanism with an integrated whistle comprising:

a whistle body defining a front end, a back end, and an upper surface, the whistle body further including a first aperture and a second aperture; and

an outer frame positioned over the whistle body in such a manner so as to allow a zipper ending to be secured to the zipper pull mechanism, the outer frame further including an opening such that when the outer frame is positioned over the whistle body, the opening in the outer frame is aligned with the second aperture of the whistle body so that when air is passed through the first aperture in the whistle body, the air is allowed to continue to pass through the second aperture of the whistle body and the opening in the outer frame to thereby create a loud, piercing noise, wherein the zipper ending is at least one cord end of a zipper cord; and

an attachment device having a first free end and a second free end such that the free ends of the attachment device are captured between the whistle body and the outer frame in a manner that allows the attachment device to include a looped portion outside the whistle body and the outer frame that is adapted for attachment to the zipper ending.

9. (Original) A zipper pull assembly with an integrated whistle comprising:

a whistle body defining a front end, an open back end, and an upper surface, the whistle body further defining an aperture extending through the front end and out the upper surface;

a cap connected to the back end of the whistle body so as to close the back end;
and

an outer frame positioned over the whistle body, the outer frame defining an upper surface and an air exhaust hole aligned with the aperture extending out of the upper surface.

10. (Original) The zipper pull assembly as set forth in claim 9, wherein the whistle body is adapted to be snap-fitted to the outer frame.

11. (Original) The zipper pull assembly as set forth in claim 9, wherein the upper surface of the outer frame defines a recess, the exhaust hole positioned within the recess of the upper surface.

12. (Original) The zipper pull assembly as set forth in claim 9, wherein the outer frame includes at least one gripping element.

13. (Original) The zipper pull assembly as set forth in claim 9, wherein the outer frame includes at least one guidance lug to align the whistle body within the outer frame.

14. (Original) The zipper pull assembly as set forth in claim 9, wherein the cap is a removable cap.

15. (Original) A zipper pull assembly comprising:
a whistle body defining a front end, an open back end, an outer surface, and a whistle-forming passage extending therethrough, the whistle-forming passage having an inlet and an outlet;

a cap attached to the back end of the whistle body to close the back end;

an outer frame positioned over the whistle body and defining an outer surface, the outer surface including an exhaust hole aligned with the outlet of the whistle-forming passage of the whistle body; and

a cord having a first free end and a second free end such that the free ends of the cord are captured between the whistle body and the outer frame in a manner that allows the cord to include a looped portion outside the whistle body and the outer frame that is adapted for attachment to a zipper member.

16. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the whistle body and the outer frame are adapted to snap fit together.

17. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the cap and the whistle body are adapted to snap fit together.

18. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the outer surface of the whistle body and the outer surface of the outer frame each include an additional hole for permitting the escape of fluid out of the assembly.

19. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the cap includes a top surface having a chamber with a channel leading into and out of the chamber, and a bottom surface having a chamber with a channel leading into and out of the chamber, such that one free end of the cord passes through the channel in the top surface of the cap and into the associated chamber, and the other free end of the cord passes through the channel in the bottom surface of the cap and into the associated chamber, the channels in the top surface and the bottom surface being located on opposite sides of the cap.

20. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the front end of the whistle body is contoured and terminates in a first wing member located adjacent one side of the whistle body and a second wing member located adjacent an opposite side of the whistle body so as to define a space between each wing member and the associated side of the whistle body, such that the first free end of the cord is positioned in one of the spaces and the second free end of the cord is positioned in the other of the spaces.